

partner. Despite some initial ambivalence, all the women want to be pregnant.

The women detail their experiences, describe the changes in their bodies and their relationships, and their emotional reactions to these changes. Because many of their stories include accounts of physical and emotional discomfort, as well as serious complications and pregnancy loss, this volume is not intended to allay anxiety. Instead, it provides a realistic sense of the bodily and emotional changes experienced by pregnant women. It also shows that there are many ways to be pregnant; that there is no one way to be a supportive partner of a pregnant woman; that the transition to motherhood, although replete with moments of joy, is complicated; and that women find ways to cope with stress, loss, and sorrow.

Pregnancy Stories will appeal to pregnant women, but the book deserves a wider audience. Those who have experienced pregnancy might find that this book gives them an opportunity to reflect on their own experiences, which are rarely made public. Those who are wondering whether or not to become pregnant, and those who seek to support a partner through pregnancy, will appreciate the realistic account provided by Cancellaro.

Before Roe: Abortion Policy in the United States

Rosemary Nossiff

Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2001.

Reviewed by Susanna Jones

Reading Rosemary Nossiff's *Before Roe* is analogous to playing a game of chess with a strong opponent who has the tenacity and vigilance to win. In the game of chess, the player with the stronger pieces on the board may appear to be winning, but one move can radically alter the balance of power—as in the struggle that led up to the winning of abortion rights. *Before Roe* is a fabulous book that traces the intense political and religious developments leading up to the Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade* in 1973. To make this history even more compelling, Nossiff begins by explaining the complicated and different party arrangements of New York and Pennsylvania and how abortion policy was directly linked to parties in power and interest groups that emerged. Nossiff moves beyond party and machine structures and highlights the role of competing discourses (legal, religious, medical, and moral) that heavily influenced abortion policy.

Chapter three charts the emergence of feminist groups, along with antifeminist groups, that also shaped developments in abortion law. The book is full of legal cases that trace rulings that mirror the cat and mouse game of chess. It also names and identifies key individuals in both states who were

pivotal in bringing about the pre-Roe repeal laws in New York and the restrictive laws in Pennsylvania. The book is thrilling and suspenseful. It reads like a cliffhanger but instead of passively sitting in my chair waiting to witness the killer's next move, I read of yet another court decision or the story of the battle turned to war between the Clergy Consultation Service and the Catholic Conferences. But the fight I was reading about was taking place over my body and the body of all women.

Nossiff identifies three key results that came out of the years preceding Roe: (i) the emergence of women as key political figures; (ii) the power and federalist structure of the judicial branch; and lastly, (iii) the monumental decision of *Roe v. Wade*.

In the end, Nossiff reminds us that the abortion conflict remains unresolved. Abortion policy post-Roe has witnessed a backlash and in many states access to abortion has been severely curtailed. I read *Before Roe* as a call to action—to all women to know our history, to be aware of the contested terrain and weak ground upon which we sit, and to continue fighting for what is left of our civil liberties. The book also points to the power of broad based coalitions. Without coalitions, the gains in abortion rights would have been merely a dream, a timely reminder in today's political climate.

Hollywood Moms: Photographs by Joyce Ostin

Joyce Ostin
New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2001

Reviewed by Alison Bartlett

This is a handsome coffee table book of 50 black and white glamour shots of Hollywood mothers and daughters. All proceeds from the book go towards breast cancer, which is perhaps one of the book's most redeeming features. The photographer is a survivor of breast cancer and writes in the preface that this is her gift back to the world: "a photography book about the celebration of life. And the love between mother and daughter." Joyce Ostin had an interest in photography for only three years before embarking on this project which, she suggests, involves all people she knows. If this is the case, the range of stars is quite formidable: from Madonna, Goldie Hawn, Carol Burnett, Susan Sarandon, Michelle Pfeiffer, Melanie Griffith, Joanna Poitier, k.d. lang, and so on, to lesser known actresses, show hosts, writers, designers, and partners of famous actors. All the subjects were asked, "What are the most nourishing moments you've shared with your mother or daughter?" and all answer in the most positive and loving way, of course. Often the photographer adds her impression of the love she felt in the family she was photographing.